April 16, 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

On June 6, 2018, the Public Law 115-182, VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks of 2018 (MISSION Act), was signed into law by President Trump. In order to find new ways to help improve the quality of care our nation's Veterans so richly deserve, the MISSION Act requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop a strategic plan to meet health care demands in consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including tribal government leaders.

We recognize that Native American Veterans have an important role in shaping the future of VA health care and therefore we are turning to you for input on the following questions:

1. What are the most important health care needs of Veterans in your area now and in the future?
2. If you were to redesign the VA health care system, what are the five most important changes, if any, you would like to suggest? This could include patient care, customer service, and billing and payment to name a few.
3. What are the top three to five recommendations you would make to help VA improve how it provides care to Native American Veterans who use VA health care?
4. What changes, if any, would you recommend to how VA develops and modifies its surveys to Veterans who use VA health care?

Your responses to these questions will inform the strategic plan and surveys of Veterans who use VA health care.

In order to ensure that your constituents' preferences and recommendations are taken into consideration as we develop and implement the strategic plan, please respond to this letter via email to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov or via mail: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VACO/OTGR Attn: Clay Ward, 810 Vermont Ave. NW Ste. 915a, Washington, DC 20420, no later than May 10, 2019.

Thank you in advance for your valued input.

Sincerely,

Melissa Glynn

Melissa S. Glynn, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration